



GENERAL PATIENT CARE GUIDELINES

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for providing the minimum standard of care for all patient contacts.

AUTHORITY

California Health and Safety Code, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4, Sections 100145, 100146 and 100147.

DEFINITIONS

Patient: An individual with a complaint of pain, discomfort or physical ailment. An individual regardless of complaint, with signs and/or symptoms of pain, discomfort, physical ailment or trauma. These signs/symptoms include, but are not limited to:

1. Altered level of consciousness.
2. Sign and/or symptoms of skeletal or soft tissue injuries.
3. Altered ability to perceive illness or injury due to the influence of drug, alcohol or other mental impairment.
4. Evidence that the individual was subject to significant force.

Patient Contact: Determined to be achieved when any on duty BLS, LALS, or ALS field provider comes into the presence of a patient as defined above.

BLS INTERVENTIONS

1. Obtain a thorough assessment of the following:
 - a. Airway, breathing and circulatory status.
 - b. Subjective assessment of the patient's physical condition and environment.
 - c. Objective assessment of the patient's physical condition and environment.
 - d. Vital signs.
 - e. Prior medical history and current medications.

- f. Any known medication allergies or adverse reactions to medications, food or environmental agents.
2. Initiate care using the following tools as clinically indicated or available:
 - a. Axial spinal immobilization.
 - b. Airway control with appropriate BLS airway adjunct.
 - c. Oxygen.
 - d. Assist the patient into a physical position that achieves the best medical benefit and maximum comfort.
 - e. Automated External Defibrillator (AED).
 - f. Consider the benefits of early transport and/or intercept with ALS personnel if clinically indicated.
3. Assemble necessary equipment for ALS procedures under direction of EMT-P.
 - a. Cardiac monitoring.
 - b. IV/IO.
 - c. Endotracheal intubation.
4. Under EMT-P supervision, assemble pre-load medications as directed, excluding controlled substances.

LIMITED ALS (LALS) INTERVENTIONS

1. Evaluation and continuation of all BLS care initiated.
2. Augment BLS assessment with an advanced assessment including, but not limited to the following:
 - a. Qualitative lung assessment.
 - b. Blood glucose monitoring.
3. Augment BLS treatment measures with LALS treatments as indicated by LALS protocols.
4. Initiate airway control as needed with the appropriate LALS adjunct.
5. Initiate vascular access as clinically indicated.

ALS INTERVENTIONS

1. Evaluation and continuation of all BLS and/or LALS care initiated.
2. Augment BLS and/or LALS assessment with an advanced assessment including but not limited to the following:
 - a. Qualitative lung assessment.
 - b. Cardiac monitor.
 - c. Blood glucose monitoring.
3. Augment BLS and/or LALS treatment with advanced treatments as indicated or available.
4. Initiate airway control as needed with the appropriate ALS adjunct.
5. Initiate vascular access as clinically indicated.